The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" So far as I remember, subject to verification, what was said with regard to this question was that the Indian Chamber of Commerce had been started for some particular purpose, namely, with reference to the then impending Bill, that it had not been in existence for a long time, that it was not known whether it was transacting commercial or any other business, and that it was started merely to get the right of representation on the board. Now whether it has done anything more or whether it has transacted any business afterwards is a matter on which I will have to satisfy myself. So after looking into the whole matter if the Government are satisfied with the purpose for which the Indian Chamber was formed and if they also find that its scope has been extended, then the matter of introducing a Bill will be considered."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" So far as my information goes, it seems to me that the Chamber has addressed the Government on certain matters concerning the trade at Tuticorin and the Tuticorin Port Trust Board. If so, the Government may have some knowledge of the activities of the Chamber. In such a case a Bill may be introduced."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That will be considered."

Landing and shipping dues at Tuticorin.

* 421 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of landing and shipping dues for coal at Tuticorin Port is six annas per ton, while the rate for other goods is eleven annas three pies generally ;

(b) if so, the reason for the same ; and

(c) whether the difference in rates obtains also in other ports in the Presidency ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The rate was reduced in 1924 on the recommendation of the Port Conservancy Board in view of the decrease in revenue from coal since the rate was enhanced.

(c) Yes.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (b), may I know whether the desired effect has been obtained ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" So we are told."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" Is it with a view to getting more coal or getting more revenue the Government reduced the tax ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I take it that both the motives animated those responsible for the action."

Motor Vehicles Act.

Alleged refusal of a bus service company to convey an Adi-Dravida.

* 422 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pachayappan Motor Service Company running from Tiruvannamalai to Samalpatti refused utterly to take into the

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(*b*) whether the same practice was followed in the school year 1923–24 in the Harris High School while it was under the direct management of the Government Educational department, as also in the Government Madrasa-i-Azam ;

(*c*) whether since the transfer by Government of the management of the late Harris High School to the managing body of the Muslim High School the Director of Public Instruction issued orders to the said managing body placing restrictions in the practice of levying the fees at less than the standard rates and extending similar restrictions to the Government Madrasa-i-Azam with effect from the beginning of 1925 ;

(*d*) whether the order of the Director referred to in (*c*) was issued in spite of the previous representation of the managing body of the Muslim High School and the Board of Visitors of the Madrasa-i-Azam emphasizing the necessity of continuing the long-standing practice and the set back of the educational progress of Muslim youths likely to ensure from its discontinuance ; and

(*e*) whether the pace of new admission has slackened and the strength is falling off ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 513 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

Excise.

Licence fees for vending foreign liquor.

426 *Q.*—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether licence fees of vendors of foreign liquor are proposed to be enhanced ; and

(*b*) what the present scale of fees is and how it compares with fees levied in Bombay and Bengal ?

A.—(*a*) The fee for foreign liquor-1 (wholesale) and foreign liquor-7 (hotel) licences in the Madras City was enhanced from 1st April 1925 as shown below :—

Foreign liquor-1 from Rs. 250 to Rs. 500 per annum.

Foreign liquor-7, 1st class, from Rs. 250 to Rs. 500 per annum.

Foreign liquor-7, 2nd class, from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per annum.

The question of enhancing the other foreign liquor licence fees will be considered when proposals for the next lease are received.

(*b*) A comparative statement[a] showing the present scale of fees in Madras, Bombay and Bengal is appended.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 840–841 infra.

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Public Works.

Construction of Coleroon bridge.

427 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state when the Government intend building the Coleroon bridge at Trichinopoly; if the answer is in the affirmative, why no work has yet been begun; whether at least any estimates have been prepared and steps taken to acquire any new sites that may be required for the purpose?

A.—Detailed plans have been prepared and tenders have been called for. The detailed estimate is under preparation. No proposals for the acquisition of any site for the work have been received.

Retrenchment in Public Works Department.

428 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what are the orders passed by the Government for carrying out retrenchment in the Public Works Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that irrespective of seniority and merit subordinates in the Public Works Department are being ousted and in preference juniors without merit are retained in service on communal grounds;

(c) whether there is any uniformity in the method of securing retrenchment of Public Works Department subordinates or whether it is left to the discretion of individual superintending engineers to adopt their own methods; and

(d) what is the procedure adopted in the Waltair Circle and whether it is consistent with the orders of the department?

A.—(a) Copies of the orders have been sent to the hon. Member.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government have no reason to believe that their orders have not been followed but will enquire into any specific case that the hon. Member may wish to bring to their notice.

Labour.

Alleged grievances of labourers in plantations.

429 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether when entering into contracts with labourers in the South Kanara district, maistris and other agents of planters frequently take thumb impressions of illiterate labourers mostly of the Adi-Dravida communities to documents which bear no date or to stamp papers without any writing except the entry made by the stamp vendor as to the sale of the paper;

(b) whether it frequently happens that in such cases documents are ante-dated or written afterwards to enforce contracts which never took place;

(c) whether it frequently happens also that widows, children, and even grandchildren of labourers are detained like slaves in plantations on the hill, in Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiri district for enforcement of contracts real or fictitious of such labourers; and

(d) what steps Government have taken and propose to take to inquire into and remedy these alleged grievances?

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A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to rules 2 and 3 of the rules framed under sections 4, 13 and 42 of the Planters' Labour Act, 1903. The former rule prescribes that "every labour contract shall be written in a language understood by the magistrate or other person authorised under section 4 of the Act and shall contain," among other particulars, "the signature of the labourer or if the labourer is unable to sign his name, the impression of his left thumb. . ." and "the signature of the magistrate or other persons before whom the contract is signed". Under rule 3, a certificate should be given by the magistrate or other person before whom a contract is signed to the effect "that the terms of the contract have been fully explained to and are understood by the contracting parties." The proper observance of these rules would make it impossible for such abuses as those referred to by the hon. Member to occur and the Government have no information that they are prevalent. If the hon. Member will give any specific instances of such abuses that may have come to his notice, the Government will be prepared to make the necessary enquiries.

Madras Children Act.

Scope of provisions of the Madras Children Act (IV of 1920).

430 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the district or local area to which the provisions of the Madras Children Act (IV of 1920) has been extended; and

(*b*) to lay on the table the rules, if any, framed by the Local Government under the said Act?

A.—(*a*)—

Provisions of the Madras Children Act, 1920.	Area to which applied.	Extent of application.
Whole Act	Madras City, Chingleput and North Arcot districts.	Children, young persons and youthful offenders of the *male* sex.
Do.	Municipalities of Cuddalore, Salem, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Madura.	Do.
Do.	Within the jurisdiction of the Railway Police.	Do.
Sections 4, 5, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 31, 37, 40, 41, 42 and 44 of the Act.	Rest of the Presidency ..	Do.
	Whole Presidency of Madras.	Children, young persons and youthful offenders of the *female* sex.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Law (Education) Department Notification No. 234, dated the 9th June 1923, as amended by Notification No. 178, dated the 8th August 1925, published at pages 633, 644 and 319–320 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 17th July 1923 and the 11th August 1925, respectively.

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Srirangam Temple.

Repairs to Srirangam temple.

431 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the urgent need for repairs in the Srirangam temple;

(*b*) what became of the committee appointed; and

(*c*) whether any report has been submitted; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the report on the table?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answers to question No. 310 asked at the present meeting of the Council and to clause (*d*) of the question asked on 16th October 1924.

Civil Justice.

Memorial of copyists of Judicial Department, Calicut.

432 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have now received the memorial sent to them through the High Court by the copyists of the Judicial department, Calicut?

A.—No.

Un-expended witness batta.

433 Q.—Mr. G RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he would be pleased to place on the table of this House the figures regarding unexpended witness batta as promised on 3rd February 1925 in answer to question 6, clauses (*a*) and (*b*); and

(*b*) the actual amount of profit to the Government since the issue of Circular R.O.C. No. 3848/24 of 25th March 1924 till the end of March 1925?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A statement[a] containing the information available is laid on the table of the House. The Government are not in possession of figures up to the end of March 1925.

Criminal Justice.

Alleged quadruple murder of a whole family in Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari.

434 Q.—Mr. K. SARVARAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the horrible quadruple murder on 9th November 1923 by one Kalidindi Bangarraju of Pedapulleru, Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari, of his only brother and his family consisting of his pregnant wife and two children;

(*b*) what steps were taken by Government to trace the murderer;

(*c*) whether the murderer has been notified in 'A list'; if not, why not;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 842-843 infra.

(*d*) what is the worth of the property—both movable and immovable—of the accused;

(*e*) whether his property was attached and sold to compel his attendance; if not, why not;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Government have resorted to the dilatory procedure of a civil suit involving a lot of expenditure to Government instead of bringing the accused's interest in the property to sale; if so, what are the reasons for it;

(*g*) why a special officer has not been appointed to inquire into this horrible murder which resulted in the extermination of a whole family; and

(*h*) if the Government have no information on the above points, whether they will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—The Government have no information but have now called for a report.

Electricity.

Alleged negotiation in London for tapping hydro-electric resources in the Presidency.

435 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether this Government have authorized a retired official of the Indian Civil Service (Madras) to negotiate as its representative in London to form an English Syndicate for tapping the hydro-electric resources of this Presidency?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (*a*) of question No. 136.

Irrigation.

Repairs to Viyam dam in Malabar.

436 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Viyam dam in Malabar has been recently repaired;

(*b*) whether, even after the repairs, there is leakage of salt water and consequent injury to crops; and

(*c*) whether the Government will take steps to prevent the leakage and the resulting injury?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government will inquire whether there is still leakage.

Washing away of anicuts in Malampuzha, Palghat.

437 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether two anicuts known as 'Nanu Patter's anicut' and 'Pattani's anicut' in Malampuzha in the Palghat taluk in the district of Malabar, which were irrigating comparatively large tracts of land, were washed away by the floods; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to reconstruct these anicuts?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) No—they are not Government works.

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Condition of the bank adjoining Melur.

438 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the bank adjoining Melur (near Srirangam) is in a dangerous condition and that the whole of Srirangam is seriously threatened;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the banks was severely damaged by the floods of last year—1924;

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, why it has been allowed to continue in that dangerous condition, so as to endanger the safety of Srirangam; and

(d) what are the steps taken by the Government in respect of Melur?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Groynes and other protective works are being constructed.

Drainage of Gaunzu Tampara lands in Ganjam district.

439 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage are the proposals to drain and improve Gaunzu Tampara lands (Ganjam district); and

(b) whether it is a fact that some natural drains to the sea have, of late, been formed and whether any use and improvement to these drains have been effected and if so, with what result?

A.—(a) They are still under the consideration of the Chief Engineer.

(b) The Government have no information but will refer the point to the Chief Engineer.

Maintenance of main canals in Godavari delta.

440 Q.—Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the amounts for which estimates have been made for the maintenance of the main canals in each of the divisions of the Godavari delta in the working season of 1925 and the two preceding years?

A.—Detailed information is not available.

Marine.

Marine survey of the Port of Mangalore.

441 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to make a marine survey of the Port and Harbour of Mangalore;

(b) what will be its cost;

(c) who will contribute the money required to meet the cost; and

(d) what purpose the survey will serve?

A.—The Government are investigating the possibility of improving facilities at the port of Mangalore. The exact method by which such improvement should be effected has not been decided.

Railways.

Location of a pumping station near Vaniyambadi town by Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

442 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGAVA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company are contemplating to locate a pumping station in the bed of the Palar river near Kodaiyangi village near Vaniyambadi town in North Arcot for taking water to Jalarpet and other railway stations;

(*b*) whether such pumping will not adversely affect the irrigation of lands now being irrigated by river channels on and about the bunds of the river on either side, by drawing off the underground flow of water of the existing irrigation channels;

(*c*) whether the Government were consulted by the Railway Company on this matter, and, if not, whether the Government will call for information;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that on a former occasion, some 15 years ago, a similar proposal on the part of the Vaniyambadi municipality to put up a pumping station at the site in question had to be given up owing to the opposition and protest of the above land-owners;

(*e*) whether the Government have received memorials from the ryots of the villages likely to be affected by the proposed pumping, protesting against the proposal; and

(*f*) if the Government are not in possession of information now, whether they will call for information on the matters stated above and take necessary action before it is too late?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 14.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Jails.

Settlement of Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans.

* 442-A. *Q.*—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a number of Mappilla prisoners have agreed or have been persuaded to migrate to Andamans;

(*b*) if so, how many; and how many of them have already been taken to the Andamans;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a batch of these prisoners is to be taken very shortly and if so what is the strength of the batch;

(*d*) what are the special reasons that induced these prisoners to agree to migrate to the Andamans;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Government are doing a propaganda among Mappilla prisoners to persuade them to go to Andamans; if so, whether they have placed the Jails Committee Report of Sir Alexander Cardew before the prisoners;